

Ladakh, intent upon some mysterious expedition into Central Asia. Col. Irby is paying a flying visit to his old quarters in Southern Spain, and will possibly cross to Marocco. Mr. E. C. Taylor has left Egypt and is shortly returning to England. He has, as we anticipated, succeeded in making some interesting additions to the Egyptian avifauna.

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XXVI.—*Obituary.*

COLONEL HENRY MAURICE DRUMMOND-HAY.—We have to regret the removal, at a ripe old age, of the first President of the British Ornithologists' Union, one of the original twenty who in the year 1858 founded 'The Ibis,' and of whom, after an interval of 38 years, eleven still remain among us.

Henry Maurice Drummond, youngest son of Vice-Admiral Sir Adam Drummond, K.C.B., and Lady Charlotte, daughter of the 4th Duke of Athole, was born 7th Jan., 1814, at Megginch Castle, Co. Fife, the ancestral seat of the family, members of which, for several generations after the Union, had represented Fife in Parliament. From his childhood he was an enthusiastic field-naturalist, and when on leaving school he was sent abroad to study modern languages, in several of which he was a proficient, he spent much time in the workshop of M. Linder, at that time the best authority on the ornithology of Switzerland and the Alps. Here he practised taxidermy, which to the day of his death was the favourite resource of his leisure hours, and few could so successfully mount a bird in a natural and life-like attitude, for few were so familiar with the action of the bird in life. In June 1832 Drummond-Hay received his commission in the 42nd Royal Highlanders (the Black Watch), in which regiment he served for twenty years, at Malta, Corfu, Bermuda, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. During all this time he was unwearied in studying the ornithology and ichthyology of his different stations and of their neighbouring countries, and lost no opportunity of making excursions into districts which were at that time untouched by the naturalist. He became a



Europe in Dec. 1852, on the edge of the Newfoundland banks he watched for some time a Great Auk, which was within 30 or 40 yards of the steamer; and as he had his field-glasses, and could distinctly note the bill and white ear-patches, he felt he could not be mistaken. He heard also from a friend in Newfoundland that in the following year a dead Great Auk had been washed ashore in Trinity Bay. This is the last trace of the giant of the *Alcide*. Shortly after his return, Col. Drummond joined the Perthshire Rifles, and commanded the regiment when embodied during the Crimean war, retiring as full colonel in 1872. On his marriage with the heiress of Seggiden, he took her name of Hay. For the last twenty years of his life he devoted himself to the natural history of Perthshire and Tayside, and especially to the formation of the Perth Museum, sparing no pains to enrich it with specimens of every bird found in the district, together with its nest and eggs, but always refusing to admit any specimen which was not undoubtedly local. He had the satisfaction of seeing his darling wish accomplished, and could boast that, as a *local* museum, that of Perth had few rivals. His last public appearance was at the opening of the new museum buildings by Sir W. H. Flower in November last, and his end came peacefully on the 4th January, within three days of his entrance on his 83rd year.

In these days of specialists, Colonel Drummond-Hay was a noble specimen of the true field-naturalist, as well as of the soldier and country gentleman, a keen observer of nature in every department. He was a good botanist, devoting himself especially to lichens. Few gardens could rival his in its show of rare herbaceous plants. And he found time to take an active part in public life in his county, and not least in ecclesiastical affairs, being for many years Treasurer of the Episcopal Church Synod. Long may our land produce sons like our first President, worthy successors of the Vigorses, Jardines, and Selbys of an earlier generation!